



The Long Island **FISHERMAN**

50¢

The Largest Weekly Fishing Magazine in the United States!

NOVEMBER 23rd, 1978 ★ Volume 13, Number 47 ★ 13th Year of Publishing ★ FIFTY-CENTS

National Scene:
**ELECTION
RESULTS**

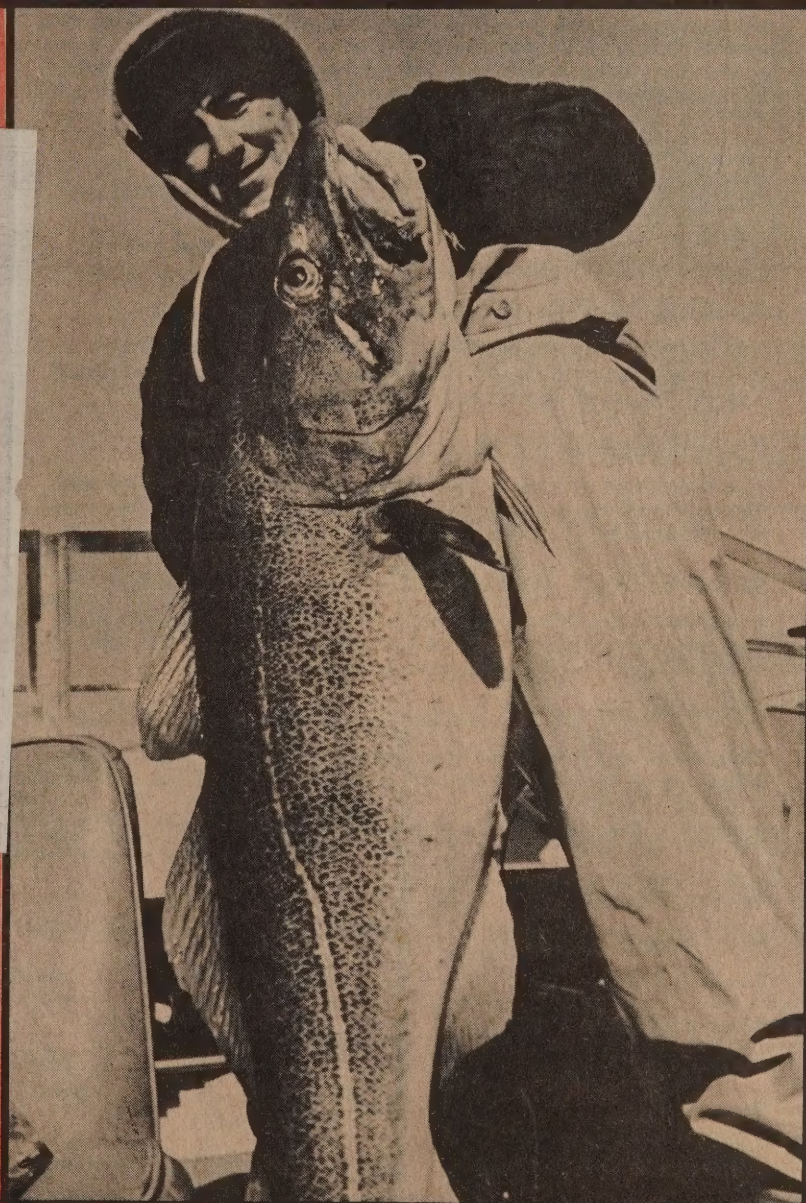
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**Captain's
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**Interview With
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FIRE ISLAND COD



The Long Island FISHERMAN

SLIDE & FILM SHOW SERIES FOR WINTER OF 1978-79

These shows are available to sportfishing clubs and environmental organizations in the New York Marine District in a first come, first served basis pending the availability of the show producers. If you would like to be considered for a show between December 1, 1978 and March 30, 1979, just fill out the form below and mail it to:

The Long Island Fisherman
Dr. W.A. Muller, Editor
P.O. Box 1994
Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963

The three shows available are:

MONTAUK FISHING—by *Scott J. Simons*

This slide show and talk will discuss the how, where and why of Montauk boat fishing for fluke, bluefish, striped bass, cod and pollack. Diamond jigging techniques will be emphasized.

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This slide show and talk is again being offered by popular demand. Topics include the ecology and life cycle of the weakfish. There are also discussions of seasonal locations and angling techniques.

SALT MARSHES & SPORTFISHING—by *Dr. W.A. Muller*

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STRIPED BASS—by *Dr. William A. Muller*

Slide show and talk about how and where to catch striped bass. Other topics include the fish cycle and ecology of the species.

Club Name or Organization

Name of Representative

Name of 1st show choice:

Alternative 2nd show choice:

First date requested:

Alternative date:

Home telephone number:

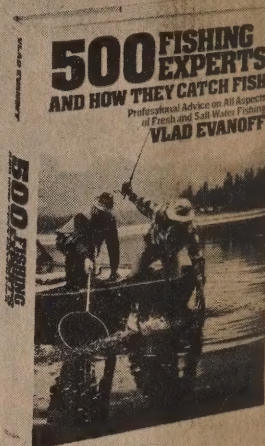
Work telephone number:

Home address:

Size of membership of club:

Where does club meet?

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The book, *500 Fishing Experts and How They Catch Fish*, written by Vlad Evanoff, contains tips, tricks and the know-how of 500 leading anglers. It tells how to catch almost any kind of fish found in fresh or salt water. Such top-notch anglers as Al McClane, Lee Wulff, Joseph Bates, David Richey, Roland Martin, Homer Circle, Tom Mann, Bill Dance, Milt Rosko, Frank Woolner, Stu Apte, Mark Sosin, Frank T. Moss, Gil Drake and Chuck Garrison are featured in the book. It sells for \$10.95, and is published by Doubleday & Co., Inc., 245 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

EAT ... EAT

A joint presentation by the Captree Boatmen's Association and N.Y. State Sea Grant Advisory Svc., will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 24-26, 1978, from 1PM to 4PM on the boardwalk in front of the restaurant at Captree State Park. Highlighted will be the cleaning and eating preparation of dogfish, sand shark, whiting and ling. There will be prepared hot samples of these fish to warm the bellies of those attending. These fish are fished or, or are an incidental catch. They're all very good eating and can be employed as food, in order to maximize the use of our fisheries, and to cut down or eliminate waste of the sea's creatures. All L.I.F. readers are invited.

CUSTOM ROD MAKING

Merrick Marine Supply, 2370 Merrick Road, Bellmore, is holding FREE rod building instruction on Sundays from 9 to 5, beginning now and continuing every Sunday through the end of February, 1979. It is suggested you bring an old fishing rod to practice developing skills in rod building and wrapping.



The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

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COMING NEXT WEEK:

SEASON FINALE

About the Cover—

As ocean waters rapidly cool, Long Island anglers will head offshore in search of the winter king. This week's issue contains many useful tips that should help put more bac-cala on the table this winter.

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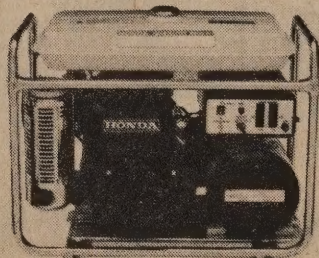
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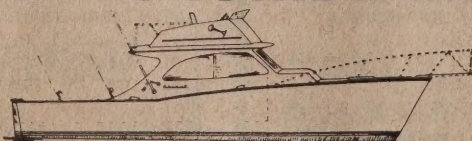


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P.F.C. TOURNY RESULTS

The Patchogue Fishing Club held its last tournament of the year on the weekend of October 14-15. The Tournament was held in the surf at Moriches Inlet area. First place went to Tom Forbes who caught the only striped bass (18 lbs. 4 oz.) on a live eel.

The other winners were: 2nd—George Dietz, 11 lbs. 10 oz. Bluefish; 3rd—Ray Termin, 6 lbs. and 4th—Bob Cromeyn, 4 lbs.



CHUM LINES

WANTS TO SPLIT CHARTER

Hy Slifer of Union, N.J. fishes with Johnny DeMaio at Montauk twice a month, from April to November and often has an opening for extra fishermen to share expenses. During 1978, the fishing has been excellent. They fish the afternoon trip with Johnny from 1PM to 8PM. Call: Hy Slifer, (201) 372-1000.

ABOUT THAT MYSTERY FISH

I would like to respond to the question raised concerning the "mystery fish" in Fred Guardineer's Nov. 2 article. This specimen appears to be a banded rudderfish (*Seriola zonata*) and not a pilot fish (*Naucrates ductor*), for two reasons.

Both fish are similar in size, appearance and habit, and both are commonly found in these latitudes. The pilot fish, however, is found well offshore and is replaced by the banded rudderfish in inshore waters.

Secondly, the pilot fish is known to have 3 to 4 short, stiff spines present in the first dorsal fin. The banded rudderfish, on the other hand, is known to have 6 to 8 slender spines in the first dorsal, thus conforming to the count of 7 first dorsal spines in the specimen in question.

I have personally observed the banded rudderfish on many occasions in both Great South Bay and South Oyster Bay. It is usually found schooling in small groups around pilings, buoys and other floating objects. For further information, one can refer to "Marine Fishes of the Atlantic Coast" by Charles M. Breder, Jr. J. Purcell, Oakdale, N.Y.

NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES
ON THE WORLD
OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Election Results a Mixed Bag

Sportsmen had little stake in the recent New York gubernatorial election. In terms of conservation, it was a choice of "Tweedledum or Tweedledee." Perry Duryea, Jr. is a long-time opponent of striped bass conservation measures—as was his father, the late State Conservation Commissioner during the Dewey Administration, before him. On the other hand, Governor Carey has never shown any particular interest in conservation matters, and vetoed the first successful effort by the State Legislature to do something about saving the stressed striper resource.

Faced with such a choice, even the sportsmen's groups were split. For instance, **The Long Island Fisherman** came out for Duryea, while **Save Our Strippers** opted for Carey. The latter endorsement was made on the basis that Carey was the victim of bad advice on the twenty-six inch bass limit. In both cases, the endorsements were basically negative—the endorsed candidate being pictured as the lesser of two evils!

It's unfortunate that we find ourselves in such a dilemma. While neighboring states have made some progressive moves in marine conservation, New York has consistently ignored even the most obvious problems. With striped bass fishing in the New York/New Jersey area now almost exclusively concentrated on migratory fish, consider what our fishing would be if Massachusetts hadn't adopted a "hook and line" law in 1947. Great schools of big bass lay off the beaches on the outer Cape during the summer and would have long since been mopped up by haul seiners. Other schools resided in Cape Cod Bay during the summer, usually only feeding a couple of times a week. In the meantime, they could be spotted with airplanes, and were so dense that a tuna seiner once accidentally set on them. Yet all that was nothing compared to the schools that would form off Nantucket in October and early November. Not only could gillnetters have slaughtered those fish, but even purse seiners! Striped bass fishing has gone quite a bit downhill during the past couple of years, but that probably would have happened years ago if Massachusetts was as uncaring about its marine resources as New York has been.

Will anything change now that Carey remains in office for another four years? Unfortunately, it's not likely. The Governor's veto message indicated that he was waiting for a comprehensive plan to be adopted by the State/Federal Compact Program.

Though many of the citizens' panels in various states have come up with interesting suggestions, there is no uniformity of opinion—even among the scientists. I've predicted right from the beginning that it will take years before a uniform approach can be worked out and implemented—by which time the resource may well be badly depleted. I hope I'm wrong, but nothing has happened so far to change my opinion.

Even if a comprehensive plan is worked out, will New York accept severe restrictions? In dealing with politicians, the first rule is never put any faith in their pledges or previous positions. About ten years ago I had lunch with Perry Duryea in Albany. At the time Perry was Assembly Majority Leader and a very powerful figure in state government. Fueled by several good year classes, the striped bass population was in good shape at the time. However, it was obvious that with ever-increasing numbers of sport and commercial fishermen seeking them, the situation would change at some point in the future. I argued for some sort of conservation measure while the stocks were healthy, but Perry opposed any action at the time. However, he did state that he'd be the first to propose such measures if there was a serious decline in the stocks. Not only hasn't he followed through on that pledge, but he even voted against the twenty-six inch limit.

The inaction on striped bass legislation can't be blamed entirely on Duryea. When the Republicans were in control of both Assembly and Senate, the Democrats were the conservationists' friend. Almost to a man, they supported every proposal that Duryea opposed. Yet when the Democrats took over the Assembly nothing changed at all! Years ago, the Assembly sponsor of the SOS game fish bill was a young, aggressive legislator named Peter Berle. Yes, that's right—the same Peter Berle who was named Environmental Protection Commissioner by Governor Carey and ended up recommending a veto of the much milder twenty-six inch limit! Hard to believe? Not really—just another example of the system making the man, rather than the opposite.

In other words, don't bet your last dollar on New York's adopting any restrictive legislation that's going to effect the pocketbooks of any influential group. Fish don't vote, and sport fishermen don't deliver their votes in any unified fashion. The result, as almost invariably occurs in such circumstances, is that the vested interests get just what they want. After a couple of years during which

the bass moved south along offshore routes, this season they went down the beach. By early November, the Montauk haul seiners had accounted for over 300,000 pounds—and the total is still rising. One individual haul totaled over 82,000 pounds! At \$1-\$2 a pound, you can easily understand why nothing is likely to change in New York! While most of that catch consisted of big fish, I just observed a haul this morning that included hundreds of scarce small bass—just a few of the thousands that will never get a chance to spawn because of the Carey veto. Incidentally, the haul seiners were bragging that they found the fish as surfcasters were nailing them right in the wash—so they just set around them. After all, it's their beach, isn't it? It sure is!

Before getting off this sad subject, I want to emphasize that not every politician is guilty of changing his stripes when vested interests come calling. Recently retired State Senator Bernie Smith is a prime example of a man who was willing to stand up and fight, even at great risk to his political future. Bernie was chairman of the Senate Conservation Committee when Duryea was Assembly Majority Leader, and was constantly incurring Perry's displeasure by putting out striped bass game fish bills. Bernie could have avoided the problem and come up with one of a million excuses for inaction, but that wasn't his style. His retirement is a real loss to both the Senate and conservationists.

On the national level, the news was better. Any marine conservation measure that infringes on the "rights" of foreign countries will have a better chance with the defeat of 200-Mile Limit opponents such as Senators Dick Clark of Iowa and Robert Griffin of Michigan. One of our strongest opponents in the House, Minnesota Representative Donald Fraser, was upset in the Democratic primary for Senator. The NRA claimed much of the credit for that surprise. Another controversial conservation issue was a crucial factor in the tremendous upsets in Minnesota which resulted in the election of a Republican Governor and two Republican Senators—after the Democratic/Farmer Labor party had been in power for twenty years. The controversy revolves around how "wild" should wilderness be. Residents in northern Minnesota were up in arms over legislation sponsored by D-FL Congressmen, which severely restricted access to the Boundary Waters Wilderness Area. This sort of battle will be fought more frequently in the years to come. It's the sort of issue that divides normal allies in conserva-

(Continued on page 21.)

FISH TALK

with Dr. William A. Muller

Fish Population Near Nuclear Power Plants

FISH THE HOT WATER! That's become a common phrase among those surf fishermen who enjoy throwing a plug or hunk of bait into the hot water effluent at Northport Lilco plant. The Northport plant became famous a number of years ago, when the word got out that there were lots of bass, blues, and jack crevalle lingering in the hot water during the winter months of December through March. During one blitz, the fishermen lined up in the snow, elbow-to-elbow to pull small to medium sized bluefish. It was a great thrill to catch game fish in winter. In recent years the hot water hasn't been as productive as it once was and mostly stripers are taken. The fish are, for the most part, small but an occasional lunker mixes in here and there. The hot water that tumbles out of a power plant provides a shelter against the cold water temperatures in the Sound during winter. Bait fish such as bunker and mullet are common to the hot water and the stripers find feeding on these baits to be productive; but Northport is not a nuclear plant and it has been in operation for some time. No one knows whether there were any concentrations of fish in that area prior to the construction of the plant and no one knows if the species composition in that area has changed since the operation of the plant. Would it be interesting, therefore, to study an area before a plant begins operation and then compare these results with data of a similar nature after the plant was operating for a few years? Obviously yes!

SAMPLING AT THE SHOREHAM SITE. In 1971 and 1972, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation performed a study at the site of the nuclear power plant at Shoreham. The projections for the plant estimate that once in operation, the plant would release about one million gallons of hot water per minute into Long Island Sound. This effluent would raise the water temperature by about eleven to seventeen degrees. The proposal calls for the hot water to be released through a special diffusing nozzle a little less than one-half mile offshore. At Northport, you'll recall, the hot water spills down a runway over a falls and into Long Island Sound at the tide zone. Thus, a river of hot water is entering the Sound. At Shoreham, a fountain of hot water would rise from the bottom of the Sound and diffuse according to the tides and winds. Thus, a north, northwest, or northeast wind would tend to blow the hot water towards the shore and during the winter the game fish and bait fish would tend to be pushed inshore, too.

Thus, on an outgoing tide, good fishing could theoretically be anticipated on the east side with a north wind and on the west side with that same wind during an incoming tide. The possibilities are intriguing, especially when one remembers that bass—often large bass—like to winter over in the deep portions of the Sound. The hot water effluent streaming from the bottom of the Sound might make a ready-made habitat for these bass and might offer some remarkable fishing possibilities.

RESULTS OF THE DEC STUDY. Believe it or not, a total of forty species of fish were collected in the site study area. Some of the species could easily have been anticipated, but some of them were totally unexpected by most folks except for the scientists making the study. Atlantic herring was a surprise, as was pollack, hake, jack crevalle, and blueback herring. According to the researchers, scup (porgy) dominated the catch, but other species were also very plentiful. Bluefish, stripers, mackerel, blackfish, sea robins, and spearing were also very common. The most ubiquitous species was the sundial or windowpane flounder. Specimens were taken during every month of the year during the study with the greatest numbers being taken in May and June. The sundial is a commonly encountered species when there are abundant supplies of sand eels available; but they are fewer when sand eels disappear and are replaced by other species such as spearing and killifish. Apparently, these flatfish will stay in deeper water in order to feed on their preferred forage fish—the sand eels.

SOME IMPLICATIONS FOR ANGLING. During the pre-operation study at Shoreham, weakfish were taken in the nets during October and June. This is typical of the weakfish phenomena everywhere. They show up in May or June in some places and then offer a brief repeat flurry in the fall. However, although weakfish have been rather plentiful in Long Island Sound for several years now, they are not taken in the hot water effluent at Northport which leads one to believe that perhaps the weakfish avoid the hot water. This is an interesting problem, since once the hot water starts to flow at Shoreham it may mean that weakfish will no longer feed in the area. Why should weakfish avoid the hot water? This, too, is an interesting question and it is difficult to come up with a reasonable explanation since weakfish are game fish like bass and blues and feed on the same baits. The presence of a few pollack in the nets at Shoreham suggests that pollack may work to the

west during some part of their life cycle and when one considers that pollack populations are only a fraction of what they once were, one could anticipate runs of pollack in this area during times of high abundance of the species. Yet the pollack is a cold water fish and it is unlikely that pollack would be visitors to the area once the hot water was turned on. Quite a few blackfish were taken in the nets during the spring and the fall and thus since these fish also prefer cooler water there is reason to believe that fewer blackfish will be taken when the hot water flows.

THE DIFFICULTY OF THE PREDICTION. It is very difficult to make predictions like these and I have offered these ideas with my tongue firmly implanted in the side of my cheek. Conditions vary too much from place to place to accurately predict what fish will be taken and which will not be caught. Bottom configurations are drastically different between Northport and Shoreham, for example, as are currents, as well as seasonal patterns of temperature and salinity. Indeed, it is a safe bet that some bass, blues, bunker, and mullet will hang around—but the activities of bottom dwellers is something else again. Perhaps sea bass, porgy, and kingfish will be year-round residents and perhaps jack crevalle will swarm in the hotel water each year in such numbers that sport fishermen from all over the tri-state area will flock to Shoreham to do battle with these tropical musclemen.

NURSERY AREA. The researchers concluded from both their own study as well as the log books returned to the scientists for study, that the area is a major nursery area for small fishes. The bulk of the fish that were taken by the scientists in seine nets as large as twelve hundred feet were juveniles. Of the fish reported taken by sportsmen, only twenty-four percent of the stripers, for example, taken in boats equalled or were larger than the state's sixteen inch minimum limit. Closer to shore, the percentage was even smaller (eighteen percent). Because this area is a major nursery ground, larger predators are at times attracted to the area. Larger fish are sometimes taken at night by fishermen—especially during May, June, September, and October. Scientists are concerned that the pumping of large volumes of hot water into Long Island Sound at this particular place may have some rather drastic effects on the area as a nursery ground for so many species of small fish. On the basis of these results, the scientists urged the following steps be taken to minimize the risk of serious ecological

(Continued on page 19.)

The screech of brakes shattered the early morning stillness as the car skidded to a halt within inches of the locked barrier. "Damn! That guard with the key is late again. We only have four hours of fishing between sunrise and nine o'clock when the waders take over the whole beach." "Yeah, I know what you mean. I would complain to the Commission, but they will tell us how lucky we are to have anything and then threaten to raise the permit another five bucks to \$25. They would just as soon close the beach to us anyway for we only present problems—so they say." "If only they would let us fish at night! They complain that they can't cope with the vandalism and wild parties on the beach, so they close the whole area down to everyone." As the rehash of complaints and grievances droned on endlessly, the line of cars awaiting access grew considerably. Finally, after twenty-five minutes a patrol car drew up to the gate, discharging the keeper of the keys, amid muttering and faint catcalls from the crowd.

Surf Side

with
John Fritz

SURF FISHING IN 1984

The chill of night still permeated the air as the two surfcasters hurriedly donned their steel-soled boots and collected their equipment.

"Don't forget the bait; those skimmer clams at \$5 a dozen are worth their weight in gold."

"I've got them. Remember how we used to complain at worms costing two bucks a dozen. Now the worm beds are either dug out or useless because of pollution and most of the local clams died off for one reason or other."

"Be careful where you walk, the clean-up crew missed quite a bit of broken bottles from yesterday's crowds—that, plus all the debris which washed ashore during the night after they left. They could have saved themselves the trouble back in the Seventies of towing the garbage offshore. It's all finding its way back on the beaches anyway."

By now the rising sun was peering over the eastern horizon. The clear skies would not last for long, because the east winds which hold back the smog banks formed in the west, will bring in overcast skies with a promise of rain.

Hey pal! These east winds might keep some of the filth bottled up around that sewer they call New York Harbor. We'll only have to contend with the oil slicks coming in from the offshore platforms.

"I'm not sure of that. Remember the best fight you had the last time out was from that rotting timber which snagged your line?"

"Nuts! I lost my terminal gear and too much line without even stopping that darn thing."

"You're right; between losing gear to objects such as that and having to discard hundreds of yards of line when it becomes coated with oil, I'm not sure which is the worst thing we have to contend with."

"Number one on my agenda is the lack of fish."

"Right on! Remember back in the old days when you could come down here and catch striped bass and bluefish from the surf using plugs and tins? Those were the days. Now the bass are gone and the vast hordes of blues are reduced to a few scattered schools staying well offshore in the cleaner waters. One bright side is that we don't have to worry about having the right plug. The only fish around now are scrounging on the bottom since the bait fish disappeared."

"I know, I used to run out and buy a half-dozen new plugs if I saw a different plug catch some fish. I must have a couple hundred of them gathering dust in my cellar."

"Hold on to them; I hear they can still catch fish on plugs down in New Zealand."

"Hah! Fat chance I'll have of ever fishing there. This is the only place I can afford to fish. Maybe I'll pack this in

also. Between the aggravation and poor results, it just doesn't pay to spend all that money for permits and bait. The handwriting was on the wall back in the mid-seventies when they started charging fees to permit buggies access to the beach."

"Buggies? Do you mean beach buggies? I never even saw one, just pictures in some old copies of The Long Island Fisherman before they went out of business because of the decline of sport fishing in our area."

The conversation ceased as the two friends rigged their rods, baited the hooks, and cast their lines into the murky water. With the rods set in the sand spikes and hot coffee from a thermos poured into two cups, the two stood back watching their rods with a faint glimmer of hope that today would be their day to catch a fish.

After several minutes of silence, the dialogue resumed.

"If this keeps up I'm going to sign up for those casting tournaments held in the ball field every week. At least there I'll have a chance to go home with something."

"Hell, who wants a trophy for hitting a target with a casting weight. It's the same as playing golf. If only I had given more support to those organizations which foresaw years ago that the sport fishermen would have to band together and fight for their sport."

"Don't blame only yourself; there were thousands of guys just like you who failed to get off their butts and lend a hand. Sure, some of them sent a buck or two each year and figured they did their part. Those guys in LIBBA, the Council, the LIF, SOS and others—hard as they tried—just couldn't motivate all the deadheads. What a shame! If only we could turn the clock back ten years or so."

"You can't blame it all on the sport fishermen. How many others who prized the coastal areas declined to get involved. Take the commercial guys, out for a quick buck, or the Sunday morning ecologists who did their part by reading the outdoor strip in the comics, or the ..."

"Hey! Something is pulling your line!"

"Oh My God! I don't believe it. After so many weeks."

After a brief period of time an eighteen inch sand shark was unceremoniously dragged up the beach.

"What a beauty! Our season is a success and we'll have fresh fish for supper tonight."

"You have some busted butt. I hope you'll at least invite me over for supper so I can have a taste of fresh fish."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a fictional story about what surf fishing might be like in the future. The author does not necessarily express the views of this publication. Rather, the author intends to make the point that the future of our marine habitats is in our hands and urges all of us to participate in the process of protecting our marine habitats. Incidentally, John Fritz practices his preachings and has been active in this area for a number of years. When called upon, his answer is always YES!



In last week's column, two important requirements for successful codfishing were discussed: proper chumming and the necessity for emulating the patience of Job. However, the use of one without the other is a waste of time and effort. What is the good of knowing proper chumming skills without the patience necessary to bring about its expected fulfillment? And by the same token, to what good is acquired patience if chumming methods serve only to entice fish away from your baited hooks? You may be sure that successful codfishermen have more than passing acquaintance with correct techniques. This is one of the reasons they are more apt to score than the average fisherman. But knowing chumming techniques and using patience to its fullest are but steps in the right direction. You are not home-free by a long shot; knowledge in this particular area does not necessarily assure that you are going to return home with cod in your sack. There is more to fishing than meets the eye, and particularly does this apply when codfishing. It is also important to know the proper tackle for better enjoyment of the sport, plus correct rigging, various baits, and most of all—the fish itself. A tall order, I know; but outside of knowing as much as possible about the fish, the rest isn't difficult to master, nor time-consuming. And surely if you wish to become a proficient codfisherman, the study of your quarry will prove to be a pleasure. And I mean applied study, not something that has been passed to you second-hand. Your public library has a shelf or two loaded with good fishing books: take advantage of it.

And let me say this. The LIF has many good codfishing articles. Don't just read for entertainment. Study those articles. Take my word for it, they aren't written by armchair fishermen. I usually find something in these articles I didn't know—and I make sure to put this new information to use at the first opportunity.

I have been chasing cod for fifty years and I'll tell you right now, I know very little about it. Any writer or fisherman who leads you to believe other than that is not being wholly honest. Whatever success I've enjoyed with cod is the result of personal experience and by reading good fishing books and articles by those who know more than I'll ever know on the subject. Getting first rate information from fishermen better than I'll ever be and doing lots of experimentation has helped tremendously. Go and do likewise. This straight to the point Biblical quotation certainly applies to fishermen who wish to excel.

I am not going to use valuable space on tackle because if you wish to be technical, a drop line in the hands of an expert will outfish a rod any day of the week. There are only several things tackle-wise you need know. For openers, don't use spinning tackle. It can never handle the heavy sinkers often required when fishing water that may run sixty to one hundred feet. It most certainly will cause much difficulty and gnashing of teeth. Just make sure your conventional rod is strong enough to bring a large cod to gaff. It should be light enough not to become tiring, yet stiff enough to sink the hook in the leather-like jaw of the cod at these depths.

Your reel should be of good manufacture (no Hong Kong specials), and it should be equipped with a star drag. It should be capable of holding at least 150 yards of good quality forty pound test monofilament line. Anything more elaborate than these simple requirements are only frosting on the cake and will cost you unnecessary expenditure of money.

Know your rigging! Don't just slap anything on your line that appeals to you. Forget you! That cod you are trying so desperately to catch doesn't even know you exist. Don't fall for those gaudy beads and shiny swiveling hook lears and whatever else is dreamed up to part you from

your hard-earned buck. Keep it simple if you wish to catch cod.

Use only the basic deep-sea rig that has brought untold numbers of cod to the gaff. When you go beyond a plain ordinary Sproat hook on an eighteen inch leader and a suitable bank or diamond sinker, you are setting yourself up for a disappointment.

What do I call an ideal hook for codfishing? Nothing more than a regular shanked 5/0 Sproat. You can increase this to 6/0 if you wish, but any size beyond that is a poor choice. Not that larger hooks won't catch cod, but when large hooks are used, the temptation to load them heavily with bait is great. This is bad for two reasons.

One, cod are shy and large baits will be looked upon with a jaundiced eye. Two, large hooks, plus the added weight of gobs of bait, keep the hook from standing out straight in the current where it is easily noticeable and available to prowling cod. Often it will entangle around the main line on the way down. Few cod are courageous enough to get that close and do their own untangling. Given a choice, and they always seem to have that—especially when fishing under crowded conditions aboard party boats—cod will seize the bait that is most appealing and presented in a natural-like manner.

Place your leaded hook about three feet above the sinker. If you wish, you can employ a second hook with an ordinary twelve-inch snell about three inches above the sinker. This will garner you any available ling. But if you are fishing an area where blackfish are on tap, it is best to reduce that lower hook size to 3/0. Should a cod pounce on it, it will be strong enough to hold.

Hooks should be placed on the main line by using a two inch double-overhand loop. Some fishermen feel they'd rather use a 4/0 to 6/0 three-way swivel, or a "Quick-Rig" in place of the loop. This is okay. Of the two, I prefer the "Quick-Rig." With them, you can raise or lower your hooks without leaving behind potential rig-fouling loops. "Quick-Rigs" cost but pennies in any well-stocked tackle shop.

Bait for cod has always been of interest to fishermen. Some will go out of their way and incur much expense to secure special baits. I knew a group of fishermen at one time who went to much expense and trouble to find hermit crab. Now, I don't think this bait can be beaten for cod or blackfish; but unfortunately, these fellows fished an area known to harbor an above-average crop of bergalls and these animated pests welcomed these innocent fishermen with open arms. These sad, but wiser, fishermen were quickly cured of any ideas about exotic baits.

You'll find skimmer to be the most popular bait aboard party boats and fishermen won't go wrong using them. But there are other baits with potential. Conch is good when properly prepared. Chunks cut from the center of fresh mackerel and herring often work wonders. Fresh whole smelt have decked many a cod. So have fresh squid strips; snappers, too. Live bergalls and fillets cut from same often work well around wrecks. Anything that looks like food and small enough to fit into that cavernous mouth will be accepted—which covers a lot of ground. I knew a fisherman in the long ago who used chicken heads! They worked, too.

When using skimmer it is important that a portion of the soft belly be retained with each slice. This is what cod relish. And don't overdo by using more than half of an average skimmer, or a third of a large one. If you must use small skimmers, be sure to score each one before placing on the hook. This will allow those tantalizing juices to flow into the current—a sort of Lilliputian chum line of its own.

It is most important that the hook point and barb be exposed—especially when using tough-as-shoe-leather conch. Cod never notice and it ensures easier hooking.

Cod attack bait in one of two ways: either by striking solidly and nearly yanking the rod from the surprised fisherman, or by snuggling up and engulfing the morsel, in which case the angler is quite unaware of what's going on. Therefore, it is important to lift the rod at intervals. Should weight be felt, strike back just as hard as you can. You've got to sink your hook in that tough jaw and

(Continued on page 16.)

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

CODFISHING

Part Two



THE CAPTAIN'S TABLE

TABLE LURES

with Helen Groll

VERSATILE

CODFISH

Being lucky enough to know some happy hookers (anglers, that is), I often find myself the recipient of many types of perfectly fresh fish. One of my all-time favorites is codfish. Cod passes the acid test for any good fish. If you get it when it's absolutely fresh, and clean carefully, it's delightful when just simply poached and served with some lemon butter. The cardinal rule for cod cookery is: don't overcook it! Cod is a rather dry fish as opposed to some of the more oily varieties such as mackerel and albacore. High temperatures or overcooking will ruin its delicate texture and render it shriveled and tasteless. Now, dried cod is another thing—fine for fish cakes, but your platter of fresh baked cod should be moist and juicy, not dried out.

The nice thing about cod is that there's very little waste. After gutting and trimming the fish, I usually cut it into steaks and reserve the head for broth. The sounds (cheeks) and tongues of cod are considered a delicacy, too. (Recipe for these follows.) Do be careful when cleaning your fish. Cod, like many other saltwater fish are subject to parasitic worms. These are harmless but if you do not take care in cleaning they may only be apparent after cooking. You can scrape them off and still eat the fish; but for a more aesthetic presentation, remove the worms. So, take care when cleaning. Cod freezes very well and, if you have a zero degree freezer, can be kept safely frozen for up to six months, though for better flavor we suggest using it before the first month or two is up. Freeze your steaks or fillets by wrapping them tightly in aluminum foil, then placing the aluminum-wrapped packages in a plastic bag. You may cook the fish without defrosting, and personally, I prefer it this way. It seems to stay juicier. But if you do wish to defrost the fish first, make sure to allow enough time to do so in the refrigerator. Fish thawed at room temperature loses too much of its natural juices.

Now's the season to enjoy fresh cod; so here's a selection of cod recipes guaranteed to please the palate of even the most demanding fish lover.

Cod Parmesan Style

Dust 2 lbs. of cod fillets generously with flour, then dip them in beaten egg. Combine 1 cup of fine bread crumbs with 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese, 1/2 teaspoon oregano, 1 tablespoon of fresh, minced parsley and salt and black pepper to taste. Dip the egg-coated fillets in the crumbs and coat them thoroughly, then allow them to dry on waxed

paper while you melt one stick of butter in a skillet. When the butter is foaming, add the fillets. Do not crowd the pan; you may have to do them in several batches. Fry the fish until golden brown and crisp, turning once. This will take about five minutes per side. As the fillets are done, lay them on paper toweling to drain. Spoon some hot tomato sauce over them before serving.

Poached Cod, cod broth and cod "sounds" and tongues

Rub 3 lbs. of cod fillet with lemon juice and bring 2 quarts of water to a boil. Add to the water—1/2 bay leaf, 1/4 cup chopped carrot, 1 stalk of celery, chopped, 1 small, peeled onion, 1 tablespoon chopped parsley, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 cup vinegar or 1 cup of dry, white wine. Bring to a boil and then lower the fish into the liquid and reduce the heat so it just barely simmers. Simmer until just tender, then drain and serve with lemon butter. Fish poached this way may also be chilled for use in fish salads. Do not discard the poaching liquid. Use it to make fish stock by adding the head of the cod (trimmed of gills) and simmering for 30 minutes. Strain the stock and freeze it for future use in a soup or chowder. The sounds (cheeks) and tongues of the cod are tasty morsels when poached this way. Sounds and tongues may also be breaded and deep fried. They're good served with tartar sauce.

Fresh Cod Cakes

A good way to use leftover, poached or baked cod, these cakes are quite different than the ones made from dried codfish.

Beat 3 tablespoons of butter into two cups of hot mashed potatoes. Add one egg, salt and pepper to taste and blend in 1 1/2 cups of flaked, cooked codfish. Make flat round cakes and fry them in butter until golden and crusty. Serve with tartar or tomato sauce.

Cold Cod Salad

Once again, a good way to use leftovers, this dish would make a nice appetizer for a formal dinner. It's also good as a luncheon dish, served with warm rolls and a green salad. Boil 4 or 5 medium sized potatoes until tender, then peel, slice and chill them. Combine the potatoes with 1 1/2 cups flaked, cooked cod, 4 large, firm, tomatoes, sliced and 1 medium sized onion, peeled and cut in thin slices. Toss the ingredients gently with a dressing made by combining: 1 tablespoon capers, 6 tablespoons olive oil, 2 tablespoons vinegar, 1/2 teaspoon mustard and salt and pepper to taste. Chill before serving and pass

additional dressing.

Cod & Potato Scallop

This simple dish is hearty, filling fare for a cold winter evening.

Generously butter a deep baking dish. Peel 1 1/2 lbs. of potatoes and cut them in thin slices. Peel and thinly slice 2 medium sized onions. Cover the bottom of the baking dish with half of the potatoes, and half the onions. Dot with butter and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Lay 1 1/2 lbs. of cod fillets over the potatoes and onions, dot with butter and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cover the cod with the balance of the potatoes and onions and butter and season as before. Pour in 1/2 cup milk and bake in a preheated 375° oven for 1 hour, basting with the juices in the pan every now and then. With the addition of a green vegetable this makes a meal in itself.

Grilled Cod Steaks

Chinese Style

Make a basting sauce by combining 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, a dash of garlic powder, 6 tablespoons of oil, 1 teaspoon of sugar, 3 tablespoons of vinegar and 1 tablespoon of soy sauce. Arrange 1 1/2 lbs. of cod steaks on a greased broiler pan and brush them with the sauce. Broil them in a preheated oven, five minutes per side, turning once, and basting frequently with the sauce. The pan juices are good served over fluffy white rice.

Cod Steak, White House Style

I found this recipe in a very old cookbook (1880) that featured foods served at the White House. I have adapted and modernized the recipe somewhat, but it retains the flavor and intent of the original.

Use codfish steaks about 1 1/2" thick. Fry 5 slices of bacon until crisp. remove from the pan, drain on toweling and crumble. Do not discard the grease in the pan. Dust the cod steaks with cornmeal that you have seasoned to taste with salt and pepper. Fry the steaks in the hot bacon fat until brown and crisp on both sides. Serve the cod with the crumbled bacon scattered on top and a good squeeze of lemon juice.

Baked Codfish

Basque Style

Now for the grand finale to this selection of recipes. This dish, though easy to prepare, would be impressive enough to serve at a dinner party. Or, why not just treat your family to some of the finest baked fish they've ever tasted?

Boil until just barely tender, 16 small, peeled potatoes, 16 small, peeled,

(Continued on page 25.)





FISHERMAN INTERVIEW

CAPT. AL URBAN

Interviewed by Fred Golofaro

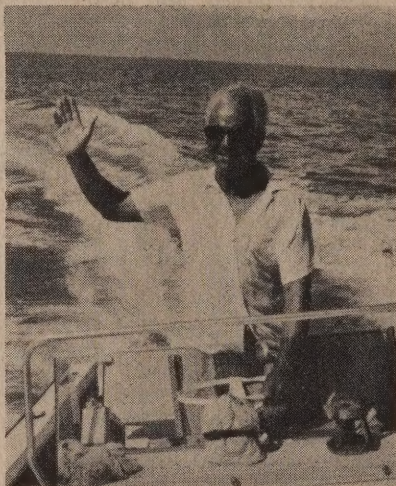
To many Long Island anglers, the name Al Urban is synonymous with Montauk and plug casting. His plugging exploits along the Point's south side beaches are almost legendary to those who believe that catching a striper on a plug is the only way to take this majestic fish.

Al, along with his wonderful wife Mary, ran Al and Mary's Motel in Montauk for many years before selling the business two years ago. He is best known, however, for the specialized charter fishing he has been engaged in for the past twenty years. Over that period of time, Al established a good following of regular clients by running one to three man charters and casting big swimming plugs in among the boulders for trophy stripers; more important, his approach produced fish under the most desirable and enjoyable of circumstances. What better setting to a big lineside coming up and crashing into a lazily worked surface plug than Montauk's cliffs and rock-strewn beaches. Add to this the magic of a setting sun bathing all around you in golden hues and you're left with a combination that is tough to beat.

My first introduction to Al goes back about ten years. I was sixteen-years-old at the time and had just spent an unsuccessful morning flailing the surf. Al inquired as to how I made out and after talking fishing for a little while, he invited me to go along with Bill Beckman and himself that afternoon. The best response I could muster was an incoherent "I'd love to." Not taking any chances on missing the opportunity, I arrived at the boat two hours early. To make a long story short, I landed only one small bass that afternoon, but the experience and the invaluable lessons learned remain with me to this day.

And so, I anxiously awaited the recent October evening I would get the opportunity to interview this man who once took the time to teach a kid thirsting for knowledge, some of what he knew.

Q. How did you get started fishing and how did you end up in Montauk?
A. Back when I was eleven or twelve years old, I had a violin teacher by the name of Mr. Scott. He was a fisherman and as a reward for doing my lessons good, he would take me along. That got me started. After awhile, I began doing a lot of surf fishing at Atlantic Beach. I actually made a living surf fishing there for four or five years, before opening up a bar called the "Merry Whirl." All of the regulars used to hang out and talk fishing. After Mary and I sold out, it became Henning's Fishing Station.



Meet Captain Al.

Back then, we used to catch a lot of bass on crabs. We would first spot the fish and then cast to the one you wanted. You had to keep your line low down because just the shadow from it would spook the fish out to deep water.

We moved to Montauk in 1952 and opened up the motel. I've been here ever since, except for winters when we head for Florida where I guide for bonefish and snook.

Q. How did you come to specialize in plug fishing?

A. It's the nicest way to catch a fish. There's the challenge of working the plug just right to make it look real and then the thrill of seeing the fish before you catch it. Sometimes it's enough of a thrill just to have a big striper come up and make a pass at your plug.

As for the chartering end of it, it's a more personalized way of fishing and allows maximum angler participation.

Q. What kind of tackle do you prefer for this type of fishing?

A. Conventional is best suited to the fishing I do. It gives you better control of a hooked fish and a better feel when working the lure. I've been a field tester for Garcia for twenty years, so I'm most familiar with their reels. My favorite is the Ambassador 8500, which I mount on a nine-and-half foot stick that has enough backbone to handle casting a three or four ounce plug. I use thirty pound Ande tournament mono. The tournament line has a consistent diameter, resulting in better thumb control while casting. Also, mono has better knot strength compared to dacron.

Q. Don't you have to be selective when booking a charter because of the tackle and method involved?

A. To a certain degree. I can usually

tell after speaking to someone on the phone for a few minutes whether they are just interested in killing a load of fish or if they are the know-it-all types who can't be taught. I stay away from those two types. I also stay at the dock if conditions are such that you can't fish properly or the people can't enjoy the trip. Too many captains leave the dock because the boat next to them left and they feel obligated to go. Often it's against their better judgement.

Q. Do you prefer any particular time of day for your fishing?

A. I generally fish afternoons from 3:30 until dark. Always have. It's not necessary to be out at daybreak, although you will catch fish then also. I guess I got into the habit of going out afternoons from too many late nights. It's tough getting up at four when you're going to bed at two or three.

Q. What plug have you enjoyed the most success with, and do you think that covering a plug with an eel skin makes it any more productive?

A. I like the Atom 40. It's got just the right side-to-side motion and can be worked real slow. The Danny plugs work as well, but like any wood plug, they soak up water and lose some of the effectiveness eventually. As for covering plugs with skins, I've found they are unnecessary and not worth the trouble. In fact, a few years ago, Bruce Mellish insisted that a skin covered plug would be more effective, so I challenged him to a little contest. The plain outfished the skin-covered plug three to one!

Q. Do you think color makes much difference?

A. Since most of my fishing is done when the sun is up, I feel that all the fish see is the silhouette of the plug. The action of the plug is far more important. There are times, too, when fish are like people. They get fussy. If they have eaten well, they may decide to pass up salad or dessert. Your plug may just be dessert some days.

Q. How do you usually instruct clients to retrieve a plug?

A. That depends on the kind of day or type of water. When it's quiet and calm, a steady, lazy retrieve seems to work best. When there is a wind chop present, I will sometimes "pop" the plug along the surface for a few feet before starting my retrieve. When one retrieve is not producing, try different variations. Also, always work your plug with the reel and not the rod. This keeps slack out of the line and puts you in a better position to set the hooks in a fish.

Q. I remember the barbs of all your

hooks being flattened. Why?

A. I have three reasons for doing this: better penetration in a striper's hard jaws; safety from novices casting plugs with three big treble hooks attached; and speed and ease in unhooking boated fish. It also leaves you the option of releasing a fish.

Q. Can you tell me something about your boat, AI?

A. The "DUKE" is a thirty foot Olsen skiff, built back in 1967 down in New Jersey. She has a little cuddy forward and a big cockpit for plenty of casting room. She also has stern controls, which makes working among the boulders much easier. She's a good, solid boat.

Q. Over the years, has any particular month been a more consistent producer than others?

A. Montauk used to have a fantastic population of resident fish. Therefore, the best plugging for big fish has always been in the summer. In July and August, we used to be able to see stripers stacked like cord wood among the boulders and kelp. Now you can't even see the bottom!

Q. Do you think there are more big fish around now than, say, fifteen years ago?

A. ABSOLUTELY NOT! There were a lot more fish around then, both big and small. Every now and then you get a real blitz on big fish, like the fishing we had here on the August moon. Those kinds of catches are becoming more and more isolated and less frequent. Back then we consistently made good catches of big bass. Over the years, I've landed well over fifty stripers in the fifty pound class. Unfortunately, most of those fish were taken back when there were plenty of fish around. I've also had six bass in the sixties, topped off by the sixty-five pounder in this picture. Five of the six were caught casting plugs on the south side during the summer.

Q. That is quite an impressive score. These pictures certainly seem to substantiate those catches. If only I were born twenty years sooner. Do you think bass are less aggressive now than they were fifteen or twenty years ago?

A. Oh sure. Let's face it, there just aren't many fish around in comparison, so there is much less competition for the available food supply. It's not just the lack of stripers either. The populations of many of our forage fish have been depleted by foreign fleets, who in the recent past, fished close along our beaches. This has added to an over-abundance of bait fish for the bass to feed on. They no longer have to herd bait up against the beach. They remain in deeper water where there is plenty of bait and it is easier for them to feed. As a result, they can afford to be less competitive and less aggressive. This naturally has resulted in poor plug fishing the past several years.

Q. What are your feelings on regulating sport fishing catches and



George Olsen and Al Urban with a typical catch of plug caught stripers taken one summer afternoon nearly twenty years ago.

banning the sale of stripers?

A. With things as they are now, something should be done. Spawning grounds are endangered and intense fishing pressure in recent years—both sport and commercial—has put a serious dent in the bass population. It is to the point where we need a no sale law and three or four fish bag limit to sustain the fishery.

Q. Can you recall some of the highlights of your charter experiences?

A. One of the nicest things about chartering is the people you meet. Some clients in particular stand out in my mind. Earl Bridges, who was a State Senator at the time, used to come out and try to land just one fish on six pound test for the fun of it. He would drink a fifth of martinis in the process, but he always went home happy and content. Then there was Grant Adams who took a 46 lb. bass on eight pound test down off "Frisbees" a while back. Getting that fish out from among the boulders with that light tackle was quite a feat.

The best woman angler I've ever met was a Cynthia Boomhower. She holds all sorts of IGFA records and used to outfit most of the men. She was a very refined lady and a real pleasure to fish with.

Q. Is there a story to that bluefish up

on the wall?

A. I caught him back in 1960. He weighed 20½ lbs. and held the North American record for awhile. Back then a 20 lb. blue was unheard of. Now they are caught fairly frequently.

Q. What are your plans for the immediate future concerning chartering?

A. Well, we will probably spend a couple of more seasons at Montauk and then settle down in Florida permanently. We really enjoy the fishing down there and Montauk isn't what it used to be. It's still a great place, but there are too many people and too few fish around now. Also, the moving back and forth every year has gotten to the point where it's just too much for us.

Q. Well AI, it's been a pleasure. Thanks for your time and the beer. And before I forget, when I arrived Mary mentioned that you have a charter with two Danish models tomorrow. Is there any chance you need a mate just for the day?

A. I think I'll be able to handle it Fred, but thanks for thinking of me. How about another beer?

Q. Thanks AI, but I think I'll try to catch the tide under the light tonight. Good night.

A. Good night and good luck.

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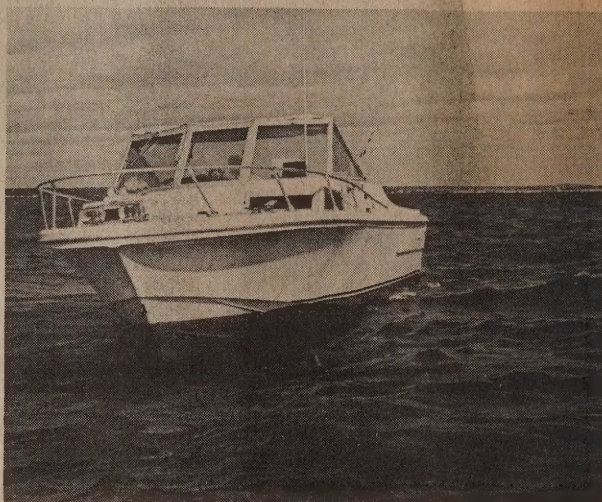
Blackfish in Black & White

Tips on Tautog Fishing

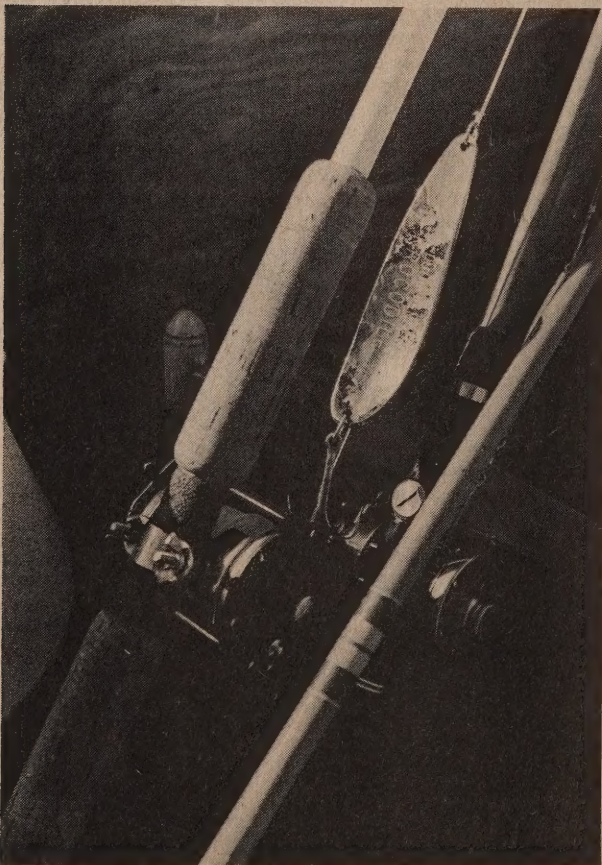
by Tim Coleman



Take plenty of bait with you. Blackfish often don't start hitting good until the tide really gets rolling. You don't want to wait the fish out only to have the prime tide arrive just as you run out of crabs.



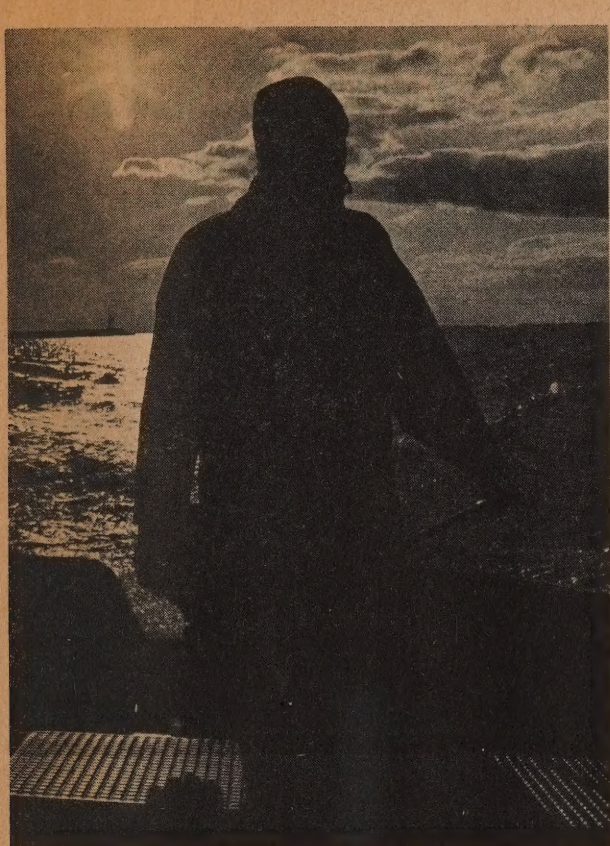
If you have your choice, go with the friend who has a cabin boat with lots of canvas. That wind is c-o-l-d in November.



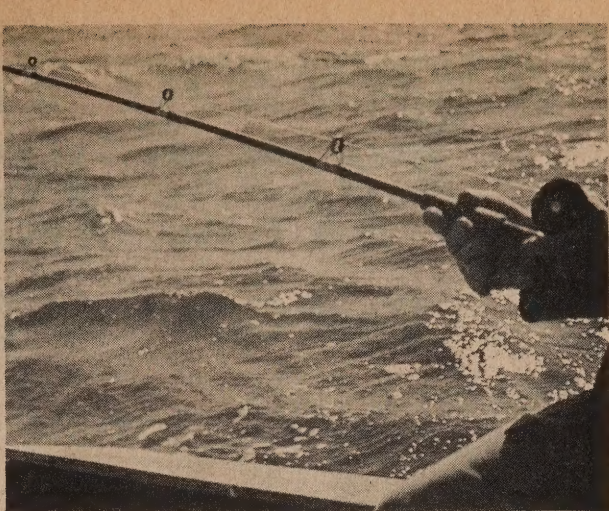
Keep a spare rod rigged for blues. You never know when they'll show up.



A two-hook rig gives you a second chance if you miss the first hit. Try to set the hook as soon as you "feel" the tautog looking the bait over. They'll clean you out if you're not on the stick.



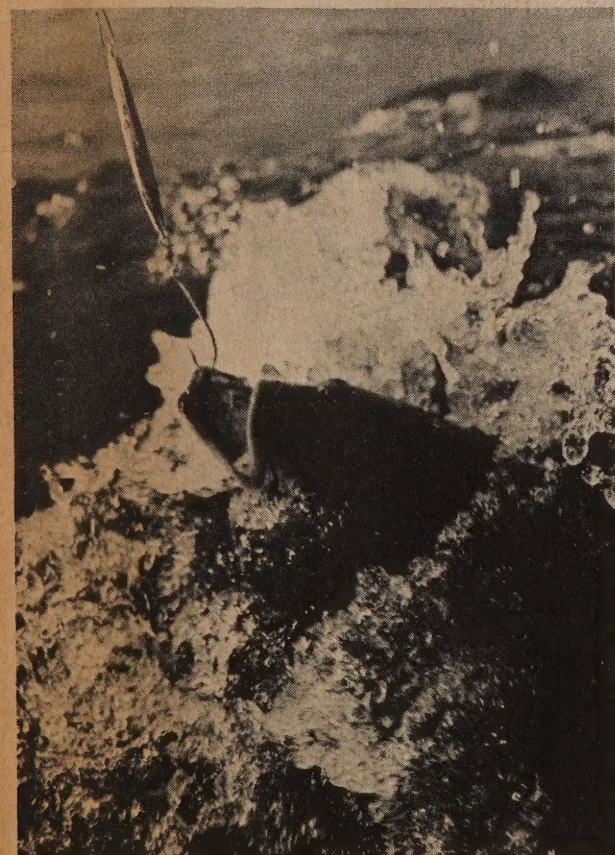
Watch your weather if you go in an open boat. Once it changes for the worse, you could be a long, miserable ride from port.



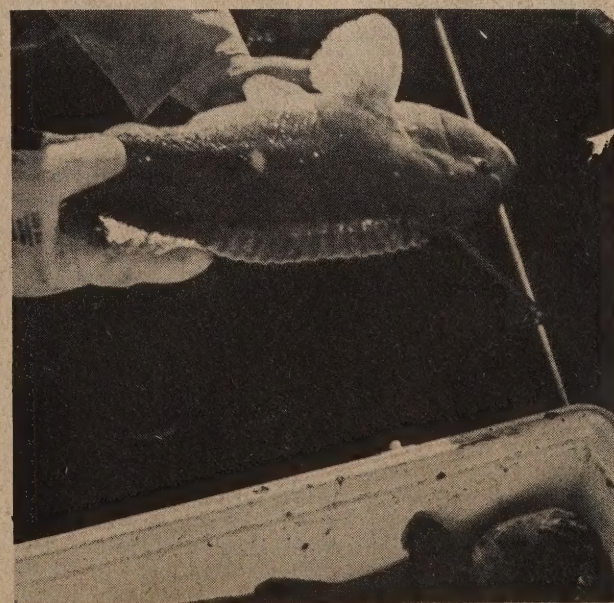
Keep the rod in your hands, not in the holder. Very simple rule for increasing your catch.



Freshwater baitcasting tackle can take tautog at the beginning and end of the tide when lighter sinkers will hold bottom.



What's That? That's the bluefish we told you about in the 2nd photo. Choppers interrupt many a tautog trip.



Insulated rubber gloves are a welcome asset on a blustery day.

Fingering The Cod Off FIRE ISLAND

Part One—by Dr. Einar Grell

The Area Known As The "Fingers."

If you live in the proximity of Fire Island and do not wish to make the long trek out to Montauk for cod, you should by all means fish the "Fingers" area off Fire Island in November and December. This area is easily available via Fire Island and Jones Inlet whether you fish it from your own boat, private charter or by "head" boat. This area provides excellent open bottom codfishing.

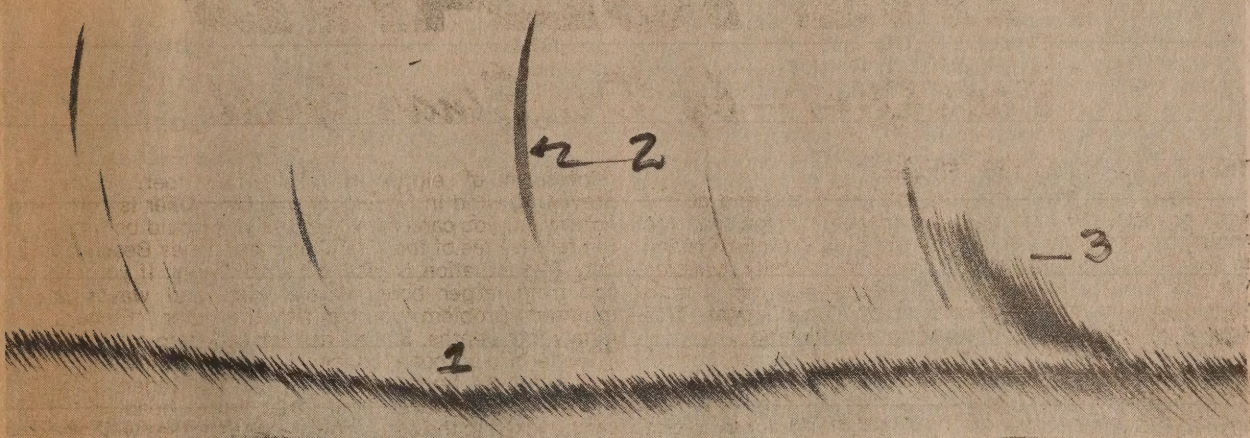
The area is characterized by a series of bottom depressions and plateaus which appear as underwater "fingers" on a chart. Study this chart closely. You will notice that immediately off Fire Island and Jones Beach that the first "fingers" are three miles offshore, followed in turn by the second and third "fingers." The entire "finger" area is within sixteen miles off Fire Island; anyone of these fingers produces cod. On relatively flat ocean days you can fish the ninety foot depressions, approximately eight miles off the beach. On fairly rough days, you can fish just off the Whistle Buoy (Fire Island) in the close inshore seventy foot depressions. In-between the inshore and offshore depressions you have an intermediate

depression of eighty to eighty-five feet. Since the prevailing wind in November and December is north and northwest, you can easily see that you would be fishing in the relative lee of the Fire Island and Jones Beach barrier bar. This situation is ideal for small boats. If you fish for cod from larger boats where wind and waves are a minimum problem, you can fish the outer "Fingers" of ninety foot depths. Since I fish for cod from a twenty foot Thunderbird outboard cruiser, I usually confine my fishing to the inshore fingers and intermediate fingers area. On the chart, I have drawn out three course headings which can be taken to the area. Any of these courses will take you across the finger-like depressions of which I am speaking. The objective is to fish in any of these depressions as contrasted with fishing the plateaus which link up these depressions as you proceed on a 155°, 135° or 187° course. Most of my trips are confined to 155°, which places my cod Safaris at the apex of a triangle which has Fire Island Light and the Robert Moses Water Tower in corners of the base of this triangle. I employ an Apelco Recording Depth Indicator MR-201B in determining exactly where I am as I



Chart showing the "Fingers" area with three possible course headings.





1.Finger depression 2.Bonito on cod ground, November 5, 1978, water temperature 64 degrees F. 3.A mountain of dogfish.

proceed on my 155° course heading off the Fire Island Whistle Buoy. The first depression I encounter is that of seventy feet—the first “Fingers.” After leaving this depression, the bottom comes up again and will record sixty-five foot depths which is actually an underwater plateau. This plateau is followed by a depression of eighty to eighty-five feet of water, the second “Fingers.” Again, a seventy-five foot plateau follows as you proceed in a southeasterly direction. The seventy-five foot plateau is followed by a ninety foot depression. My usual plan of attack before dropping anchor is to slowly “scout” the first seventy foot depression and look for tiny spikes on my depth recorder which could be cod on the bottom or dogfish. I usually fish the first “Fingers” heavily for a couple of hours. This means that I chum with a bushel of clams and wait out the dogfish.

Before I forget it, the most important ingredient for successful codfishing in this area is anchoring up. Improper anchoring will ruin your entire cod trip and destroy your entire chumming procedure which is 100% directly related to your cod catch. An undersized anchor or one which allows your boat to slowly pull it out or to skag along slowly when you have a little wind, is taboo. Light anchors are out. Only you can determine whether you have the proper weight anchor. On my twenty foot Thunderbird, I employ a nineteen pound Danforth to which is attached nine feet of seven-eighths chain. This is attached to 1000 feet of three-eighths nylon line. When this oversized anchor strikes the bottom it digs in. It might break my buddy, Jack Sherlock’s back when he pulls it in, but we do catch cod OVER OUR CLAM CHUM. There is nothing worse for catching cod than to crack a bushel or two of clams over a nice depression in the “Fingers” area only to find out one hour later that you have dragged your anchor and now are fishing over an underwater plateau a half mile away from where you left the foraging crabs in your clam chum and, in turn, the crab eating codfish. This situation occurs more times than most codfish skippers are willing to admit and is a major factor in separating those who fish for cod from those who catch cod. Again, an oversized anchor with plenty of scope must be used.

Under normal conditions and wind speeds of five to ten knots, a scope of 5:1 will be sufficient. This means that if you are fishing in ninety feet of water approximately 450 feet of anchor line will usually hold your boat. This is the length of line from the bow chock to the bottom where your anchor is located. In determining scope and length of line to be used, do not forget to add the approximate wave height and height of your boat to your computations. Off Fire Island during cod season, your scope ratio will be

between 5:1 and 8:1. If it is greater than this you are fishing in a gale and aimed at self-destruction. If you can’t hold bottom at 8:1, it is probably too rough. My point: better to have TOO MUCH LINE OUT than not enough. Again, you must stay put in one place when you drop anchor. A solid hook-up with bottom will help you stay over your chum and how close you fish to your clam chum will determine how many cod you will catch. Now that you have anchored up ... back to chumming.

Chumming.

First, never go codfishing with less than three bushels of clams. You might get by with two bushels, but that is a bare minimum. Make three bushels your rule of thumb for skimmer clams. There is nothing more frustrating than to run out of clams just as the cod begin to bite. Your skimmer clams serve two purposes. First, they will be deposited beneath your boat to attract small crabs followed by cod who just love eating crabs, as do most humans. Your crushed clams will establish beneath your boat miniature “wrecks” or midden piles upon which crabs and cod feast—one eating the other. Secondly, clams will be used on your hooks as bait.

In cracking clams, wear heavy rubber gloves. Clams are cracked with a small bat (handle of a baseball bat, hammer, etc.). The shells, with entrails attached, are deposited in the chum pot and the weighed pot with trip cord attached is sent to the bottom from the bow of boat and dumped beneath my boat. At least a half bushel are cracked and immediately dumped at the outset. The idea here is to get the crabs coming. Throwing clams in the air and breaking them around the boat a la Reggie Jackson, is a poor chumming technique. You should see where these broken clams end up when they finally come to rest on the bottom. Would you believe one hundred feet from your boat. I have witnessed this as a diver on the bottom beneath a boat that was chumming this way. The remainder of these broken or shucked clams which represent the major body of a clam when it is cracked are placed in a small bucket and used for bait.

Another method for placing cracked clams beneath your boat is to place them in a large paper bag with a heavy sash weight. Bag is attached to a heavy trip line. Paper bag with clams and sash weight is sent to bottom, bag gets wet, a quick snap of trip line with sash weight attached and clams are now beneath your boat in a flash. No waste—your banquet table for Old Mr. Whiskers has been set.

When you have chummed with up to a bushel of cracked clams beneath your boat, and two hours of no

(Continued on next page.)

fishing is coming to an end, I would move to another section of the "Fingers" area. Patience is a virtue in codfishing. You must give your clams an opportunity to do their ecological thing. Remember, cod do not eat uncracked clams.

Time Factor.

In codfishing, you oftentimes will catch several cod immediately and then everything stops for an hour or two. If this occurs, I usually remain at the same spot since I have already caught fish and have established my cafeteria beneath my boat. The cod off Fire Island meander by in small schools as they move in from cooler waters offshore. At best you will not have more than two or three dozen cod eating from your clam pile during the entire day. If you catch a majority of these fish you will have a super day. A fair day of codfishing for two guys fishing would range from a half dozen to a dozen and a half. Less than five—a poor day. More than twenty-five fish for two guys fishing is very good. Remember, the migratory schools traveling over open bottom off Fire Island are small schools at best.

To move or not to move is always a problem when you have only caught one or two fish over a two-hour interval at one spot. If you are a restless type, move; but remember when you arrive at your next spot you will have to establish another cafeteria beneath your boat. Many is the time that I have moved from my first spot to a second spot only to find out later in the day that my buddy, who remained in another boat at my original spot, cleaned up on the cod right after I had left. At any rate, your second move to a great extent will be dictated by the amount of skimmers which you have left. If you do not have at least another bushel and a half for the second spot, it probably is better that you remain at spot one and "go for broke." Now you can see why I recommend that you go with at least three bushels of skimmers. Also, if you do not use all your skimmers, you can save them for another trip. They do keep, if fresh. If not fresh they will probably gag a maggot—possibly you and your buddy; but they do make good chum on the second trip. Be frugal, but not piscatorially stupid.

The Dogfish Problem.

Dogfish almost invariably will be part of your cod trips since water temperatures during the early part of the cod season coincide with water temperatures conducive to the breeding of dogfish. For the most part you will always catch dogfish on your trips. The exception will be those trips taken in December when the ocean gets colder with the dogfish leaving. When you catch them do you move to another spot? Not at all. Most of the time, I will catch dogfish before I catch cod. Matter of fact, catching dogfish can be a good indication that my clam chum is doing its job. The question here is how many dogfish do I catch

before I move to another spot? I have patience and will allow approximately fifty dogfish to drive me nuts before I move. If I catch one or two cod within this fifty dogfish orgy, I remain and wait them out or put up with this low-cod-to-maximum-doggie ratio. God must have loved them, for he made an awful lot of them. You can say the same if you fish for cod off Newfoundland. Many of my buddies move to another spot after catching fifteen or twenty dogs only to find when they arrive at the new spot that they receive the same super dogfish action. When this occurs, there is really nothing much that you can do. It is doggie day, the breeding season has arrived. Actually, the water is still a little too warm for maximum cod catch. Still I have caught some of my largest cod during these dogfish days. I would encourage your practice of patience, it is a virtue. Do not vent your action upon them by disembowling them with your fillet knife. A large majority of these dogfish are females pregnant with little dogfish pups. You will become a sadistic killer of pregnant females. Killing them serves no purpose whatsoever. All you do is dull your knife and add to your frustration. These spiny creatures have been around for millions of years and are part of our basic ocean ecology. They do serve a purpose and are eaten by many Europeans as grayfish in fish and chip dinners. Possibly, you should try eating one. It might change your entire perspective and attitude towards them.

Sinker Bouncing:CODFISH

(Continued from page 8.)

halfhearted attempts won't do it.

When cod strike with force, it is best to wait until you feel at least three heavy bites before attempting to set the hook. This is hard to do, I'll admit; but if you can control your reflexes, you'll find more of these frisky cod in your sack.

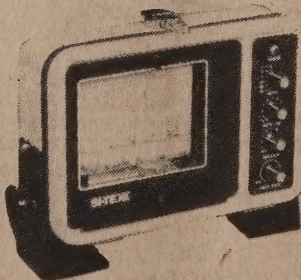
Let me offer this last bit of advice: whatever you do when bait fishing for cod, make sure your rig lies perfectly still on bottom. Don't jig. Cod are spooky and anything you do to alert them that all is not as it should be will cost you fish. Take a tip from the commercial set-liner. He anchors his trawls and lets the cod do its own hooking. And these fellows aren't kidding. They are making their living the hard way.

Pick out a nice day, dress warmly, and go get yourself a couple of cod. You'll have plenty of company and surely meet a grand bunch of helpful guys if you go aboard a party boat.

There's no bottom fishing quite like codfishing. To which I can plainly hear dedicated fishermen saying: "Amen, brother."

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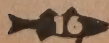
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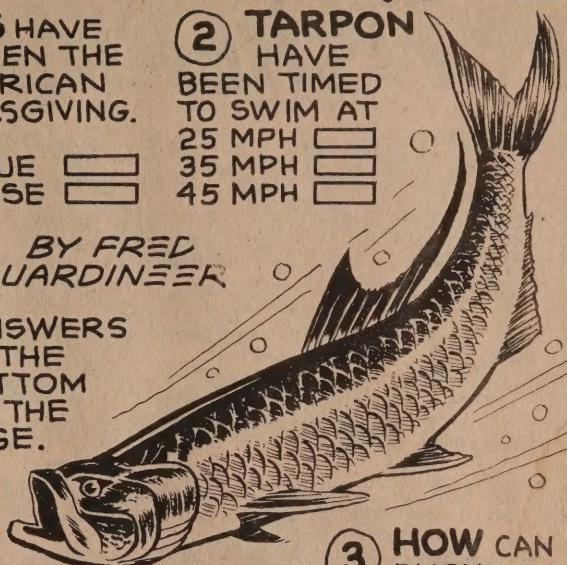
① **TURKEYS** HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE FAVORITE AMERICAN MEAT AT THANKSGIVING.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

② **TARPON** HAVE BEEN TIMED TO SWIM AT 25 MPH ☐
35 MPH ☐
45 MPH ☐

BY FRED
GUARDINEER

ANSWERS
AT THE
BOTTOM
OF THE
PAGE.



③ **HOW CAN DUCK HUNTERS PREVENT ICE FROM FORMING ON WATERFOWL DECOYS IN COLD WEATHER?**



④ **A HUGE SNAPPING TURTLE** WEIGHING 166 LBS. WAS CAPTURED IN 1976 IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ESTIMATED TO BE 1000 YRS. OLD. HE WAS A 90 YR. OLD STRIPLING IN 1066, A TURNING POINT IN HISTORY. WHA' HAPPEN?

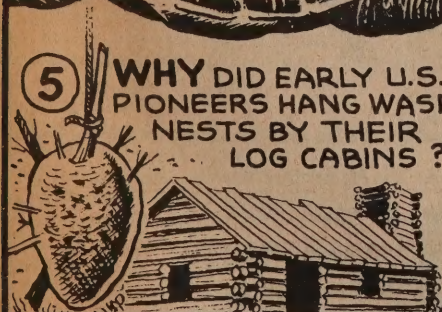


⑦ **GREAT WHITE SHARKS** DO NOT EAT PEOPLE.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

⑥ **A READER** WRITES THAT WHILE DIVING HE WAS FOLLOWED BY PILOT FISH AND ASKS IF THIS BEHAVIOR IS UNUSUAL? YES ☐ NO ☐

⑤ **WHY DID EARLY U.S. PIONEERS HANG WASP NESTS BY THEIR LOG CABINS?**



1 - FALSE. EELS FIRST, GEESE SECOND. 2 - 35 MPH. 3 - BY APPLYING A THIN LAYER OF PETROLEUM JELLY ON EACH DECOY KEEPS THE ICE OFF AND IS EASILY WIPED OFF. 4 - WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR OF FRANCE DEFEATED ENGLAND AT THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS. 5 - THEY HAD NO SCREENS FOR THEIR WINDOWS AND THE WASPS KEPT THE FLIES AWAY. 6 - NO, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL. PILOT FISH FOLLOW SHARKS, RAYS AND EVEN DIVERS FOR HANDOUTS. 7 - TRUE. RESEARCH SHOWS THAT WHILE THE GREAT WHITES MAY BITE YOU IN HALF, THEY DON'T CARE FOR THE TASTE!



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FISH TALK:

(Continued from page 6.)

imbalance. First, they suggested that the hot water temperature should be regulated closely and should not exceed the standards of the State DEC. Second, they urge that shut-downs (periods when the plant does not operate and thus does not produce a hot water effluent) should be scheduled for summer months when the sudden disappearance of warm water would not likely be a threat to small sensitive fishes. Third, the pipes in the power plant's cooling system must be maintained regularly. The cleaning process is usually done with chlorine to kill algae and other fouling organisms. At the present time, the use of chlorine compounds for cleaning is the only viable method, but the risks to fish life can be held to a minimum if the chlorine containing effluent is diluted by large volumes of fresh sea water before it is released into Long Island Sound. The specific recommendation calls for the chlorine concentration level to be held to less than 0.1 part per million.

POLLUTANT LEVELS. The scientists also studied the levels of toxic substances in bluefish, striped bass, and windowpane flounder. This data may become very significant in later years when the levels of these same substances are tested in specimens

that are resident in the hot water. The scientists found that levels of DDE, DDD, DDT, Dieldrin, and trace metals were comparable to the levels that are "normally" found in these species. The levels of these substances found in the fish tested are not considered to be hazardous.

CONCLUSIONS. The Shoreham nuclear power plant station offers an excellent opportunity for both the scientist and the sport fishermen to study the effects of hot water effluent on the quality of angling and the species composition in an area. The pre-plant data exists and the log books of fishermen. I hope some agency comes up with the money to study the site once the plant has been going full tilt for a few years.



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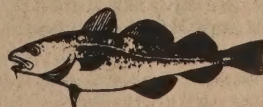
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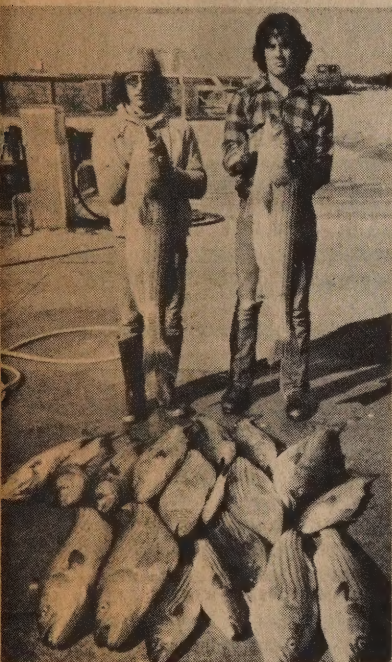
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MONTAUK

★ BEST BET ★

BLUEFISH

Ron Grandinetti of the *Julie III* and Montauk local Cliff Brown fished on Cliff's boat Sunday and had 1,180 lbs. of blues in the 10-18½ lb. range, along with a 28 lb. bass, fishing Southwest Ledge. Ron says the fish were so thick that they just drifted for an 1½ pulling fish on diamond jigs till he and Cliff were arm weary.



James and Tony hold 2, 30 lb. bass from a catch of 16 taken on De-May-O Jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

Viking Star reported fishing was pretty slow over the weekend due to a rough ocean. A few blacks and porgies with some cod, were taken at Block Island on Sunday. The porgie fishing is about over for all intents and purposes.

The Viking Starlite, unable to sail on rough Saturday, docked with plenty of big blues and a few stripers to 24 lbs. on Sunday. The fish were all diamond jigged in the Montauk Rips.



Rudy Rybak with his 37 lb. striper and Joe Fetten's 14½ lb. bass. Part of a recent catch made aboard Capt. Frank Braddick's "Hurry Up" at Montauk.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

MORICHES BAY

Bill at East Moriches Bait & Tackle tells us that Al and Marilyn Lubbers along with Tony and Lil Pidgeon boated 55 keeper flounder to 2 lbs., on Friday fishing at buoy 54 with

NATIONAL SCENE

(Continued from page 5.)

tion battles.

Our friends on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee were all returned with big margins. Norm Lent was returned in Long Island's Fourth District with a two-to-one margin over his Democratic opponent. Committee Chairman John Murphy won easily in his Staten Island District; while Mario Biaggi garnered Democratic, Republican, and Liberal nominations—making his contest a walk-over. Leo Zeferetti, with Democratic and Conservative endorsements, won a second term in his Brooklyn district by over two-to-one. The new First District Congressman, Conservative-Republican William Carney, can be a big help if he's able to get a spot on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. No matter how friendly a Congressman is, he can't have much effect on fisheries legislation unless he's on that Committee. Otis Pike is a sport fisherman and was an effective legislator, but not being on the Committee, he was just one of 435 votes when it came to getting the 200-Mile Limit.

There was also good news in New Jersey. Ed Forsythe, ranking minority member on the Fisheries Subcommittee, was re-elected with a 32,000 vote margin in what used to be a Democratic district. Democratic Congressman Bill Hughes, of Cape May, seems to have made a safe seat in what used to be Republican territory. Bill won by just short of two-to-one. Only two votes were cast against the 200-Mile Limit in New Jersey; one of those is now out. Helen Meyner lost her bid for re-election in the 13th District by over 5,000 votes.

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Capt. Dick Vigilant Loses Life At Sea

Early this fall, Captain Dick Vigilant took his eighty-five foot commercial boat and a crew of four to Alabama to set-line for bottom fish. Last week, a Japanese freighter struck the boat, sending all five men into the water. Only two of the five survived—Dick never made it.

For two days after the accident, both family and friends waited and prayed for the news of the men being saved by the many rescue planes and boats that searched the Gulf of Mexico.

During that waiting period the vision of my old buddy Dick, floating in the water with a life preserver and fighting to stay alive, haunted me. Obviously exposure overcame him and the rescue came too late.

Whenever fishermen hear of comrades being lost at sea, a quiet deep concern overcomes us. When the loss of life is as close as your next door neighbor, it is a sobering shock.

My relationship with Dick Vigilant goes back over twenty years ago as kids working on head boats, at the same dock in Montauk. He was working for Bill Newbery on the "Ace II" and I worked on the "Riptide" for Dusty Dorzebacher. Eventually other interests took me away from Montauk. Dick stayed and finally started to make a name for himself with the charter boat "Triton." His ability to catch fish—all kinds—became evident and his business prospered.

Dick had a personality that was subject to moods that often would get him into trouble; yet his warm, engaging manner and disarming smile could win over his severest critic. I hope people will remember him as one hell of a fisherman, a man who could really "put them on the dock." I'm sure Dick would have wanted it like that.

The day I watched his boat go by the point and turn into the southwest for the long fatal journey south, I reflected on the past. I tried to raise him on the CB set and wish him good luck. I never did, and I regretted that then and even more so now. Good luck, Dick.

John DeMaio, Montauk



Al Borker landed this 35 lb. striped on a black tube while trolling at Montauk. The fish was among a catch of 10 bass from 10-35 lbs., caught aboard the "Fun Tyne."

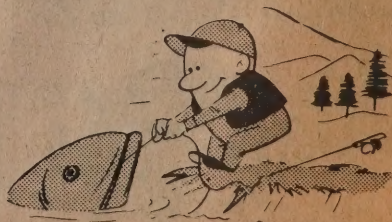
bloodworms on the hook and muscle and clam chum. Bill asked us to tell you that he's running a duck and deer contest at the store. There is a \$1 entry fee and there will be a free mount done by Fish Unlimited Taxidermist. Call East Moriches Bait & Tackle for details. On Sat., Tony Rizzo had 2 schoolie bass 8-10 lbs., along with a 36 lb. 8 oz. striper which

Fred Bayer brought to the boat on an umbrella rig with dark black and green tubes along with 18 blues, working the white water at Moriches Inlet.

Randy Brown and Jack Fassino of Coram and Patchogue fished Moriches on Sat. and got 39 flounders from 2-4 lbs in the early morning. They also got a 3 lb. weakfish and 2 dz. crabs. They took the flounders on bloodworm and clam and chummed with clam juice. They fished out of Skidmore's a little east of buoy 42.

SHINNECOCK

Speck's Bait & Tackle reports there is still flounder activity in Shinnecock Bay, Peconic's Noyac Bay on worms and clam and chumming sure helps. Some stripers still being taken at the Southampton Beaches on poppers, tins and on bait. Blackfish are still being caught on both north and south ends of Plum Island and Three Mile Harbor.



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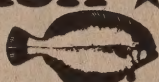
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Tom Celentano and friend John
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DAILY

CAPTAIN'S TABLE:

Versatile Cod

(Continued from page 9.)

white onions and 1 lb. of peeled small carrots. Butter a shallow roasting pan and place a center cut of cod or a small, whole cod in the center of the dish (if using a whole cod you may wish to stuff it with your favorite stuffing or use packaged stuffing mix.) Arrange the onions, potatoes and carrots around the fish. Season to taste with salt, pepper and a pinch of thyme. Drizzle lemon juice and melted butter over the fish and vegetables and pour 1/4 cup white wine in the bottom of the pan. Bake in a preheated 350° over for about 1/2 hour, slightly longer if the fish is stuffed. Baste frequently with the pan juice. My favorite stuffing for this dish is as follows: 1½ cups bread crumbs, 2 tablespoons chopped onion, 1/2 cup chopped celery, 1 beaten egg, 1/2 stick melted butter and salt and pepper to taste.

If any of you have a question on fish cookery, or a particular recipe you'd like to see, write and let me know. While I can't answer all letters, if I get a lot of requests for information on any given subject, I'll be happy to do a column about it. Write to Helen Groll, c/o The Fisherman.

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Rich Morgenthaler, Dan Farrell, Hector Rivera, Jimmy McGivney, Guy Didal and Hector Casellas with 45 nice flounders taken at buoy 50 on bloodworms. The group returned as many fish as they kept. Photo courtesy Skidmore's Fishing Station.

GREAT SOUTH BAY ★ BEST BET ★ FLOUNDER

BAY SHORE

Captain Neil of the Casey Lee tells us the flounder fishing this past week was very good, with more big fish moving in everyday. Catches have been from 20-40 keepers a man, except for windy Sat., when it dropped to 10-20 per man. This was on worm and clam baits fishing in East Bay off Fire Island pines, Watch Hill and Lone Hill. Neil says the boat will be sailing Thanksgiving day, but will return to the dock at 2PM in time to get anglers home to gobble the gobbler. If there is continued good flounder fishing, Neil expects to sail every day till mid-December.

CAPTREE

The Captain Joseph Fleet reports that the Joseph II on Sunday had 20 cod for 12 men fishing two wrecks. Most of these cod were good sized. Ken Hedjucek had the pool fish hitting the scale at 45 lbs. 4 oz. Ken is from Rosedale. Len Knight followed that with a 41 lb. A 36 lb. and a 34 lb. 8 oz. brute were also decked. Most fish were in the 10-20 lb. class. Not many doggies were on the wrecks. The dogs remained on open bottom.

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PILOT II BLACKS

★ 6AM DAILY ★

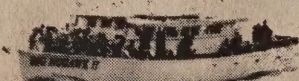
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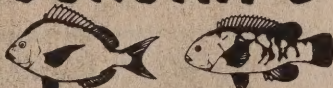
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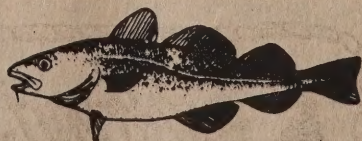
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Artie Rickett with 46½ and 34¼ lb. stripers taken on bunker chunks at Robert Moses Park in September. Subscriber Club photo.

reports slim flounder catches over the weekend, but hefty in size at Reynolds Channel's buoy 18, Baldwin and Middle Bays. Poor local blue and bass trolling was the rule this week.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS

★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait & Tackle reports flounders on the smallish side are being caught on worm and clam at Copiague Hole, the Babylon Cut and in the State Channel. Blackfish are still at the artificial reef but you'll have to get them on clam and worm as crab baits are as hard to find as feathers on a billiard ball. Stripers have been taken this past week on live eels and bunker, on worms and on clam at the Cedar Beach overlook vicinity. Joey G., local sharpshooter had ½ dz. on Wednesday up to 40 lbs. from the construction dock to the Sore Thumb on bunker and live eels. Lots of doggies on open bottom and big blueclaw crabs are spread out all over the bays. Blues still being taken on the outside off Cedar Overlook and at the outflow pipe on umbrellas.

SEAFORD

Shore Isle Marina reports Mike Vulpis has been making frequent striper catches fishing the bridges with the tides, using live or fresh bunker and also bunker chunks. His larger fish are in the 25-45 lb. range. Jim Browne had 10 blues trolling am umbrella between Tobay and the Inlet. Flounders are still a good item on worms at the 2nd Wantagh.

MERRICK

Jimmy at Nick's Fishing Station tells us that Rich Isaacs of Merrick caught 28¾ lb. bass at the last Meadowbrook bridge in the dark, casting a white bucktail. On Thursday

29 blues were trolled just outside the inlet mouth by another customer on umbrellas. On Sunday, loads of 12-15 lb. blues were trolled in 50 ft. of water from the golf ball to the pink hotel. Flounders ran small this week with the best of the catches being at rowboat alley and in the channel from the station up to rowboat alley.

BELLMORE

The singing dog at Merrick Marine reports the flounder activity has been spotty and advises trying the deeper holes in the channels with worms and plenty of chum. Some bass are available on the inside, but it's a nighttime or early morning affair at the bridges and the black banks.



Bob Smith hefts 56¾ lb. striper he beached at Gilgo on a live eel. Fish was weighed at "the store" and the Captree Bait Station.

BABYLON

High Hook Fishing Station reports good catches of flounder still being made by skiffs working areas between the pool and Bergen Point with worms and clam baits and chum.

BALDWIN

Andy at Arthur St. Fishing Station



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FREEPORT

The Capt. Al reports that the codfishing is improving everyday with the dropping water temperature. On Sunday, James LoBello of College Point had 4 cod up to 33 lbs. all on clam bait.

Ron at Sea Isle Sports reports very good flounder fishing around the inlet and at the hole out in front of the CG Station and at the Meadowbrook Bridge, with bigger fish being on the NW side. Gill netters have been getting a load of bluefish not far off the beaches.

Capt. Sy Karlin of the Blue Fin II called to say that Sunday's codfishing was very good working in 110' of water s/SE of Jones. Russ Hoy of Hudson Bay Fishing Club bagged a 33 lb. Bill Wright had a 28 lb. cod. Randy Schiemer had a 25 lb. cod and there were other assorted cod taken. The surprise catch of the day was an approximately 100 lb. Atlantic torpedo which is a combination of a ray and an angler fish and this baby packs a good electrical wallop. This was on an offshore wreck.

Capt. Joe of the Ivory Queen called to tell us that Sunday's charter for Jim Caruso and party of Howard Beach had 10 blues from 10-13 lbs. along

with a 26 lb. cod fishing in 90 ft. of water, 160° degrees out of Jones. They also took about 100 doggies. This was all on clam.

Charterboat Night Owl had Vic Lanzone and party out Saturday for a total of 87 keeper flounder taken on bloodworms on the outside at Point Lookout.

Captain Dave and mate, Neil Kalisher of the charter boat The Rogue had a good catch of flounders fishing Reynolds Channel, fish up to 2 lbs. 5 oz. Dave is still running his half-day bass trips.

Dick Baldassano of Hudson Anglers called in the results of Sunday's All Clubs Invitational Codfish Tournament. First place-Hudson Anglers, total weight 230 lbs. (wrecks). Second place-Tournament Anglers total 85 lbs. Third place-Squadron Anglers 83 lbs. tota

The Capt. Lou II reports good flounder fishing this past week. Super was the word for Wednesday, with 12 fares boating 420 keeper flounder fishing Reynolds Channel. Friday during the storm 6 fares had 206 flatties. The weekend was good. This was all on worm and clam with a lot of corn chum being dished up. Mike says the fish are running bigger now-up to 2½ lbs.

Starstream II reported that fishing an offshore wreck on Sunday produced 20 cod running 12 to 32 lbs. A couple of fish in the 30's were included in the catch. A few seabass and porgies along with some big ling were taken during a stop over a rock and mussel bed.

The Miss Freeport reported very good flounder fishing all week. Worms and clams both produced fish but the larger flounders seem to prefer clams. The captain has been fishing Reynolds Channel and some of the local creeks. High hook on Wednesday had 47 nice size flaties.



This nice catch of jumbo blues and bass to 20 lbs. was made by Steve Silver and his grandfather Artie on Capt. Ronnie Lepper's charter boat "Kim." Fish were all taken on Lupo Baby Bunker Spoons.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reported flounder small with only 1 out of 5 a keeper. Some anglers manage 15-20 nice size fish. Buoy 15, 16, and 18 are among the more productive spots. Clams and worms both work. A few bass in the inlet the latter part of last week on bunker but no word over the weekend. Blackfishing slow. Ed and Marylyn wish their friends and customers a happy holiday season as they are now closed for the winter.

ISLAND PARK

The open boat **Commodore** reported fair fishing for flounder on Saturday with catches averaging 20 fish per man. Cammille Scutto of Sheepshead Bay had a 1 1/2 pounder to take the pool. On Sunday the average was down to 15 per angler but larger fish were taken. Best fishing was during slack water and first part of the incoming tide. Worms and clams both produced equally well.

Charlie at **Beckmann's Tackle** said that flounder fishing in the local creeks is pretty good. Charlie suggested that if you anchor up over a hold and chum heavily, you'll catch plenty of nice size fish on clam or worm bait. Incoming tide produces best action in these back bay areas.

JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reported things are pretty slow but that a few blacks and flounder are being taken at the North and South Channel Bridges. Fiddlers and clams for the blacks, clams or worms for the flounder.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Dorothy B** had good blackfishing the early part of last week fishing offshore Jersey, 17 Fathoms, and selected wrecks. A few ling are usually mixed in with the blacks and pool fish run 8 to 9 lbs.

The **Helen H** spoke of very good action on Sunday for whiting averaging a lb. to a lb. and a half on Sunday. Fares average 30 fish per person fishing the Mud Hole area.

The **New Elsie K III** enjoyed good blackfishing last week at 17 Fathoms. Green crabs have been producing the best action. More whiting and ling have been showing up in the catches everyday. Sunday's high hook was Preston Michaels' who had a bushel of blacks to 5 lbs.

Guy DeBlasio called to fill us in on the fact that the bottom boats are catching a lot of blackfish. The Atomic is getting a lot of blacks and catches of whiting while the Pilot is zeroing in mainly on the blackfish.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** tells of plenty of blues being taken on umbrellas and diamond jigs at the Tin Can, Coney Island and at the Ship. Blacks being caught at Seabright, Manhattan Beach jetty and the Coney

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Island jetties on fiddlers, green crab, clam and worms. Whiting and ling being taken to some extent at the Mud Hole now. Nothing spectacular yet. A few bass at the jetty and at Roamer Shoals on worm, clam, umbrellas or diamond jigs. Very few flounder being caught.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny of **Santo's Sport Shop** gave us the word that the brisk pace of surf fishing continued into it's sixth week. Danny swimmers still the most consistent producer for the big fish. Recent weigh-ins include Amil Reigi-26½ lbs., Vic Lamberti-37½ lbs., Tony DeMucia-32 lbs., Joe Venezia-33 lbs., and Jack Sherwood Jr. with a 47½ lb. striper. Boatman Ken Larsen had 6 bass up to 49 lbs. on bunker at the 21 can and Ricky Howe weighed in a 15½ lb. surf caught blue.

School bass at Penny Beach and Cliff Street for worm bunkers. Most run 3-5 lbs. but one customer returned with 6 up to 14 lbs. Good flounder fishing in Great Kills Harbor on worms or clams. Casters catch them at Piers 8 and 17.

**PEACONICS &
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★ BEST BET ★
BLACKFISH**

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt Fishing Station reports that blackfishing remains very good at Orient for fish up to 9 and 10 lbs. Both hermit and green crabs are producing the fish. One boat over the weekend returned with 40 nice flounder up to a pound and one half taken on clams and worms in Goose Creek.

Surfcasters still enjoying fast action with big blues at Kenney's Beach and Hortons Point. The choppers are running up to 20 lbs. and being taken mostly on tin and bunker chunks.

**NORTH SHORE
Mid-Island
★ BEST BET ★
BLUEFISH**

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station had news of big blues trolled on Saturday off of Miller Place. Umbrella rigs, big

swimming plugs and spoons all took fish. Blackfish and flounder action has not been up to par. Fishing can best be described as picky.

KINGS PARK

Mae's Way Fishing Station reported that blacks have been slow but flounder and tommy cod are worthwhile. Steve Nemeth filled a five gallon pail with flounder and tommys fishing inside the river with worm bait on Sunday. For those interested, the station also caters to duck hunters. Arnold DiSorci shot his first Canadian goose on Saturday.

HUNTINGTON

Aboard the **Ever Ready**, Paul Scheerman boated the first striper a few minutes into the drop zone on Sunday's 5AM run. As many other stripers came aboard, Roy Carbones and Ed Kirchmiere's stripers tied for the pool. Action was on Ava-27 and 47 diamond jigs off Eaton's Neck. The 5AM run will be for stripers, followed by a blackfish run. See ad for details.



**NORTH SHORE
West End
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER**

CITY ISLAND

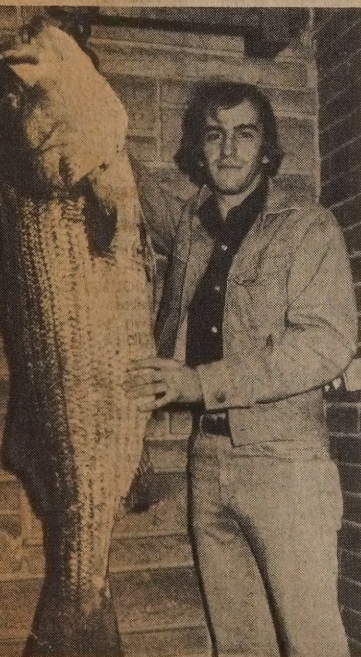
Jacks Balt & Tackle reported that blues seem to have moved out and stripers in. On Sunday, boatmen worked over a good body of fish behind Execution Light. The fish run 5 to 7 pounds and are being trolled on umbrella rigs.

Good action for flounder and tom cod on worm bait at Orchard Beach, Prospect Point, and in Eastchester Bay.

BAYVILLE

Norm's Balt & Tackle reported that Al Carrino had a nice catch of both school bass and big blues at Lloyd's Neck one day last week. Trolled umbrellas were the ticket.

One of the local youngsters showed off a pail full of flounder caught at the Bayville Bridge on worms Sunday. Blackfishing has been on the slow side.



Kevin Koncelik of **Santo's Sport Shop** displays his 51 lb. striper taken from the beach at Staten Island. The huge cow fell to a Danny plug and was landed on 12 lb. test.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK		Breakwater Harbor		NEW YORK		NEW LONDON		WILLETTS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT		NEW-PORT		DATE
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	
THUR.	1:29	1:34	2:33	2:47	2:17	2:21	3:34	3:41	4:37	4:56	4:59	5:19	1:39	1:59	11/23
FRI.	2:23	2:31	3:29	3:40	3:09	3:18	4:23	4:36	5:35	5:57	5:51	6:13	2:33	2:54	11/24
SAT.	3:21	3:32	4:19	4:33	4:02	4:17	5:09	5:27	6:34	6:57	6:41	7:04	3:26	3:45	11/25
SUN.	4:17	4:30	5:06	5:21	4:54	5:10	5:53	6:14	7:28	7:57	7:29	7:56	4:13	4:34	11/26
MON.	5:07	5:22	5:52	6:07	5:42	6:00	6:33	6:59	8:16	8:45	8:15	8:44	5:00	5:19	11/27
TUE.	5:52	6:11	6:34	6:52	6:27	6:45	7:15	7:42	9:02	9:32	9:02	9:32	5:45	6:06	11/28
WED.	6:37	6:56	7:19	7:36	7:09	7:31	7:57	8:27	9:45	10:18	9:48	10:19	6:31	6:54	11/29
THUR.	7:22	7:42	8:03	8:24	7:51	8:17	8:41	9:15	10:33	11:05	10:37	11:07	7:17	7:40	11/30

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....-0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." -0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 1/2 hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	-0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	-0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	-0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	-0 12
Seaside Park	-0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	-0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	-0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	-0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	-0 02
Rehoboth Beach	-0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	-0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harris Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0 38
Democrat Point	-0 38
Coast Guard Station	-0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	-0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	-0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	-0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	-0 08
Herod Point	-0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	-0 20
Truman Beach	-0 42
Falkner Island	-0 13
Sachem Head	-0 10
Brantford Harbor	-0 07
New Haven Harbor	-0 08
Milford Harbor	-0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	-0 03
Saugatuck River	-0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	-0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	-0 14
Montauk Inlet	-0 25
Montauk Point	-1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	-0 33
Noank, Mystic River	-0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	-0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higginum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	-0 10
Execution Light	-0 06
Manhasset Bay	-0 01
Hempstead Harbor	-0 11
City Island	-0 03
Rye Beach	-0 28
Port Chester	-0 09
Mamaronock	-0 08
New Rochelle	-0 24
Dauids Island	-0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	-0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	-0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuytten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	-0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	-0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	-0 08
Point Judith Harbor	-0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	-0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11/2	6:34	4:53
11/7	6:40	4:47
11/12	6:46	4:42
11/17	6:52	4:38
11/22	6:58	4:34
11/27	7:04	4:31

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
			
11/30	11/7	11/14	11/22

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish
Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	11:10	5:10	11:20	5:35
Fri.	11:50	5:50	—	6:15
Sat.	12:05	6:35	12:30	6:55
Sun.	12:45	7:15	1:10	7:40
Mon.	1:25	8:00	1:55	8:25
Tues.	2:10	8:45	2:40	9:15
Wed.	2:55	9:35	3:30	9:55
Thurs.	3:45	10:30	4:10	11:00